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JOINT MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE FOR
PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION AND
THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON
COORDINATION
Twenty-sixth series
18 and 22-23 October 1991
Item 1 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Annotated provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

The Economic and Social Council, by resolution 1988/64, stressed the importance of periodic meetings between Member States and the executive heads of organizations of the United Nations system in promoting better understanding and coordination of the activities of the system in the economic and social fields and of the role of the Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination in that regard. The need for further improvement in the functioning of the Joint Meetings, relating in particular to the timing, participation, agenda and follow-up, was reiterated.

In the same resolution, the Council decided that, in the future, the Joint Meetings should be held in New York in conjunction with the autumn session of the Administrative Committee on Coordination. This would facilitate the participation of the members of the Committee for Programme and Coordination at a high level as well as the participation of the executive heads of the specialized agencies and United Nations programmes. The duration of the Meetings should be sufficient to allow for an adequate exchange of views among participants.

The Council also decided that the Joint Meetings should take the following measures relating to their work:

(a) Members of the two Committees should identify well in advance the specific issues for discussion under each topic and hold a concrete exchange

of views, focusing on practical measures to solve the coordination problems identified;

(b) The background papers prepared by the Administrative Committee on Coordination should include appropriate action-oriented proposals, so as to assist the Joint Meetings in achieving concrete results;

(c) Steps should be taken to ensure the effective follow-up at the intergovernmental and intersecretariat levels of the conclusions and recommendations of the Joint Meetings.

Finally, the Council decided that appropriate measures for effective intergovernmental and intersecretariat follow-up of the conclusions and recommendations of the Joint Meetings should be reported, through the Committee for Programme and Coordination, to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session in the following year.

The General Assembly, in resolution 43/219, recalled Economic and Social Council resolution 1988/64.

The Committee for Programme and Coordination, at its thirtieth and thirty-first sessions, reaffirmed the importance that it attached to the Joint Meetings as a unique opportunity for a dialogue between Member States and the executive heads of the organizations of the United Nations system. It was recommended that the Joint Meetings be conducted in such a way as to allow participants to have as much opportunity as possible for an open dialogue and frank and extensive exchanges. The Joint Meetings should continue to be preceded by adequate preparatory meetings, and executive heads and representatives of Member States at the highest possible level should make every effort to be present at the Joint Meetings. The Economic and Social Council, in resolution 1991/67, endorsed the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the Joint Meetings, especially those concerning the need for a genuine dialogue at a high level between Member States and executive heads.

At its twenty-ninth session, the Committee for Programme and Coordination recommended the "Implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade by the organizations of the United Nations system" as the topic to be considered by the Joint Meetings in 1991.

The Committee for Programme and Coordination, at its thirty-first session, noted that the question of the implementation of the provisions of the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, adopted by the General Assembly at its eighteenth special session, in their relation to the International Development Strategy, should also be kept in mind when addressing the topic.

At its thirty-first session, the Committee for Programme and Coordination recommended that the twenty-sixth series of Joint Meetings should make

suggestions to the Economic and Social Council, at its organizational session, on the theme(s) to be discussed at the high-level segment of the Council in 1992. The General Assembly, in resolution 45/264, and the Council, in resolution 1991/67, also indicated that the Joint Meetings should make recommendations to the Council, at its organizational session, on the theme(s) to be considered at the coordination segment of the Council in 1992.

The Joint Meetings will begin on 18 October 1991 with a meeting at the deputy or senior level to identify major policy issues. To the extent feasible, the meeting will also formulate possible conclusions and recommendations that could be considered by the Joint Meetings. On 22 and 23 October 1991, the Joint Meetings will convene at the ambassadorial and executive head level. It is suggested that the Joint Meetings consider on 22 October the implementation of the International Development Strategy by the organizations of the United Nations system. On the morning of 23 October the Joint Meetings could consider the themes for the high-level and coordination segments of the Council in 1992 to be recommended to the Council at its organizational session. On the afternoon of 23 October, the Joint Meetings will consider draft conclusions and recommendations of the meeting.

2. Implementation of the International Development Strategy by the organizations of the United Nations system

In accordance with past practice, the Administrative Committee on Coordination has prepared a background paper as a basis for the discussion.

The background paper, prepared by the ACC Task Force on Long-term Development Objectives, contains information on the activities of the organizations of the United Nations system relating to the Strategy and discusses the relationship between sectoral strategies, plans and priorities adopted by governing bodies of organizations of the system and the principles and goals of the Strategy. The paper reviews existing arrangements for inter-agency collaboration, including at the country level, and contains conclusions and recommendations regarding the monitoring and review of the implementation of the International Development Strategy. The paper also contains a number of annexes providing more detailed and specific information on the activities of the organizations relevant to the implementation of the Strategy.